



Milwaukee County

Board of Supervisors

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For Immediate Release
Contact: Harold Mester, Public Information Manager
414/278-4051 or harold.mester@milwcnty.com

COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S PROPOSED LAYOFFS, 35-HOUR WORKWEEK MAY NOT BE NECESSARY

Number of variables that could lead to much smaller 2009 deficit

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Supervisor Elizabeth M. Coggs, along with Board Chairman Lee Holloway and a number of additional Supervisors, held a news conference this afternoon to release new estimates showing that Milwaukee County is on pace to avoid a large shortfall for 2009. “These revised estimates show that Milwaukee County’s deficit is now projected at approximately \$650,000, down from the Administration’s estimates of nearly \$15 million,” said **Supervisor Elizabeth M. Coggs**, Chair of the County Board’s Finance & Audit Committee.

“It is disappointing that we are not getting accurate information from the County Executive’s staff and department heads,” **Board Chairman Lee Holloway** said. “I am calling on all of the Administration’s staff to take politics out of the equation, and provide the Board with the best, most accurate data possible, so we can make the best decisions on behalf of County residents.”

One of the biggest areas offsetting earlier budget projections is in land sales. “Earlier this year, the County Board approved the sale of County Grounds land to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and we have an opportunity to use some of those proceeds in 2009” said **Supervisor Jim “Luigi” Schmitt**, whose district includes the County Grounds. “If this transaction can be closed by March 1, 2010, \$5 million can be booked for 2009, which can help address our shortfall immensely,” added **Supervisor Peggy A. West**, 2nd Vice-Chair of the County Board.

“The revised projections include \$500,000 in savings expected from the Combined Court related operations,” said **Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr.**, Chair of the County Board’s Judiciary, Safety & General Services Committee. “These savings are being identified in lieu of a 35-hour workweek for employees.”

Beyond those areas, the desire to take politics out of these discussions is clear. “We must do everything we can to promote good government in Milwaukee County,” said **Supervisor Gerry Broderick**, Chairman of the Parks, Energy & Environment Committee. **Supervisor Johnny L. Thomas** echoed those thoughts, saying, “I respectfully disagree with the County Executive’s assumption that he can unilaterally make policy decisions and cut the County Board out of the legislative process.”

“The County Executive is using fuzzy math to scare residents in Milwaukee County,” said **Supervisor Michael Mayo, Sr.**, 1st Vice-Chairman of the County Board. “We are being conservative with our accounting, and we know that we have a great shot at avoiding a shortfall in 2009 even without instituting 35-hour workweeks or layoffs,” added **Supervisor John F. Weishan, Jr.**

The Finance & Audit Committee will meet again next Monday, June 22, 2009, at 1 p.m. to receive further reports and discuss additional ways to address Milwaukee County’s short and long-term financial goals.

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